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Chairman's Statement on the situation of human rights
in East Timor

Following consultations, I would like to make a statement announcing what has been agreed by consensus by the Commission on the situation of human rights in East Timor.

"The Commission on Human Rights discussed the human rights situation in East Timor. The Commission notes with concern continuing allegations of human rights violations in East Timor, while recognizing the positive measures taken by the Government of Indonesia to improve the situation.

The Commission recalls the undertakings by the Government of Indonesia to promote human rights in East Timor and those contained in the consensus Chairman's Statement at its 48th session on the matter, and stresses the need to take further steps towards its implementation.

A matter of preoccupation to the Commission is the incomplete information concerning the number of people killed and the persons still unaccounted for as a result of the Dili violent incident of 12 November 1991. While acknowledging the efforts made to account for those persons the Commission calls upon the Government of Indonesia to continue its investigation on those still missing and the circumstances surrounding the matter.

The Commission expresses the hope that the cooperation between the ICRC and the Government of Indonesia will continue. It calls upon the Indonesian authorities to ensure that those East Timorese in custody are treated humanely, and that their rights are fully respected, and to take further appropriate measures aimed at early release of those convicted.

The Commission is encouraged by the greater access recently granted by the Indonesian authorities to human rights and humanitarian organisations as well as international media, and calls upon them to continue this policy of expanding access.

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The Commission welcomes the undertaking by the Government of Indonesia to invite the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions to visit East Timor and to submit his report to its fifty-first session. In the same spirit, the Commission takes note of the intention of the Government of Indonesia to continue to cooperate with other relevant thematic special rapporteurs and/or working groups, and to invite them to visit East Timor when necessary for the fulfilment of their duties.

The Commission welcomes the current dialogue between Indonesia and Portugal under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General and encourages him to continue his good offices in order to achieve a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement to the question of East Timor. In this context, the Commission stresses the importance of the understanding reached on confidence building measures between the two governments and welcomes the recent mission undertaken by Mr. Francesc Vendrell as representative of the Secretary-General in order to promote further progress in that dialogue.

The Commission requests the Secretary-General to keep it informed on the situation of human rights in East Timor and will consider it at its fifty-first session."